

ABSTRACT

5 The present invention relates to methods and systems
for providing printing services over a communications
network. In particular, the present invention enables a
user to obtain print jobs at an unspecified location
which may be remote from the source of the print job. A
spooling server is used to store a print job received via
the network from a print job source. A printer polling
device, which may be at a location remote from the print
10 job source, is capable of polling the spooling server via
the network to identify whether any print jobs associated
with the printer polling device are available for
printing at an associated printer. The spooling server
need not initiate contact with the printer through a
15 firewall, since it is polled by the printer polling
device. Thus, network security is maintained. A fee can
be charged for the printing services provided.

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